

V. REMARKS

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim is amended as discussed below to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 4, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying designs and a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device. Claim 4 recites that the front display device includes an electrical display device for allowing the variable display device to be observed therethrough and a rear holder for holding the electrical display device from a rear side thereof. Claim 4 further recites that the rear holder has a front face and a rear face defining a thickness therebetween and has one or more windows for allowing the designs variably displayed in the variable display device to be observed. Additionally, claim 4 recites that each window has a first recessed portion formed into the front face and a second recessed portion formed into the rear face and being larger than the first recessed portion. Further, claim 4 recites that the first and second recessed portions are in communication with each other between the front and rear faces to form a stepped-down rear holder surface disposed between the front face and extending from the rear face, into the rear holder and partially towards the front face.

Support for the claimed subject matter is found in Figures 3(a) and 3(b) with additional support in the specification and, specifically, in paragraph [0023] on page 13.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Weiss (U.S. Patent No. 6,623,006) in view of Emori (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0166925). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Weiss teaches a gaming machine that includes a video game display and a housing. The video game display has substantially planar front and rear surfaces and a periphery extending between the surfaces including one peripheral side adjacent

another game display. The one side has a wall spaced from the other game display by a minimum clearance and immediately adjacent the other game display. The housing has an openable front panel and two changeable game displays oriented in side by side relationship. The two displays are exposed through the front panel and are visually accessible by a player. The video game display is a liquid crystal display.

Emori teaches a gaming machine that includes game result display device and beneficial state generating device. The game result display device displays a game result thereon. The beneficial state generating device generates a beneficial state for a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result display device. The game result display device includes first display device and second display device arranged at a more front side than a display area of the first display device when seen from a front side of the gaming machine. A common illumination device illuminates both the first display device and the second display device is provided.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying designs and a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device. Claim 1 recites that the front display device includes an electrical display device for allowing the variable display device to be observed therethrough and a rear holder for holding the electrical display device from a rear side thereof in a facially-opposing manner. Claim 1 further recites that the rear holder has one or more windows allowing the designs variably displayed in the variable display device to be observed therethrough and that peripheral corner portions in the rear side of the one or more windows are removed therefrom thereby forming a stepped-down portion extending from the rear side and partially into the rear holder towards the front display device.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that peripheral corner portions in the rear side of the one or more windows are removed therefrom thereby forming a stepped-down portion extending from the rear side and

partially into the rear holder towards the front display device. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Support for the claimed subject matter is found in Figures 3(a) and 3(b) with additional support in the specification and, specifically, in paragraph [0023] on page 13.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claim 5 also includes features not shown in the applied art.

Support for the claimed subject matter is found in Figures 3(a) and 3(b) with additional support in the specification and, specifically, in paragraph [0023] on page 13.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

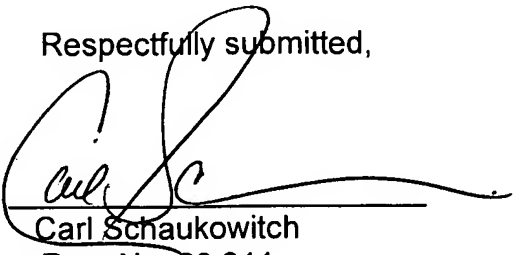
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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